1: Evans-Pritchard, Edward Evans. The Divine Kingship of the Shilluk of the Nilotic Sudan. The Frazer Lecture, 1948. Cambridge: At the University Press, 1948.

Pp. iv, 40.

Yale: Nkd 81 S4 948e

[This is an account of Shilluk kingship with particular emphasis on structural and ritual aspects. Although the author, a social anthropologist, has done fieldwork in the Sudan he has had only limited first hand contact with the Shilluk. The study is based on secondary materials. Comments on earlier interpretations of Shilluk kingship and a general theory of divine kingship are presented. A bibliography is included.--Analyst]

Field date: no date
Analyst: Betty Potash

Evaluation: Ethnologist-4
Processed in 1960

2: Seligman, C.G. and Brenda Z. Seligman. Pagan Tribes of the Nilotic Sudan. London: George Routledge and Sons Ltd., 1932.

Pp. xxiv, 565; 60 plates; 38 text figures; appendix; end map.

Yale: Nkd80 932s

[Only pages dealing with the Shilluk i-xv and 37-105 have been processed for this file.]

[The materials in this source provide a good overall account of Shilluk culture based primarily on the authors' own fieldwork with supplementary materials drawn from other accounts. While the treatment is necessarily brief it is comprehensive and covers all aspects of Shilluk culture except for technology and material culture. The authors appear to rely on informants' statements about Shilluk culture and traditions and to depend on this rather than on personal observation or investigation. As a result the normative aspects of culture are stressed and there is little information on variability or on day to day life. The authors were social anthropologists. -- Analyst]

Field dates: 1909-1910 , Evaluation: Ethnologist-5
Analyst: Betty Potash Processed in 1960

3: Westermann, Diedrich. The Shilluk People: Their Language and Folklore. Philadelphia: The Board of Foreign Missions of the United Presbyterian Church of North America, 1912.

Pp. lxiv, 312; 8 plates; map.

Yale: Nkd81 S4 912w

[Pages dealing with language, 243-307 have not been processed for the Shilluk file.]

[The materials included in this source offer a brief but comprehensive summary of Shilluk culture and provide considerable information on language and folklore. Much of this mythological and linguistic data has been used by the author for a historical reconstruction which is not generally accepted today. Recent linguistic work by Greenberg using different methods of analysis also raises questions about Westermann's ideas of Hamitic components in Shilluk. The author, an ethnologist and linguist, spent four months in the field concentrating primarily on language. He has also used other published accounts and information provided by missionaries in his study. --Analyst]

Field date: 1910
Analyst: Betty Potash

Evaluation: Ethnologist-5
Processed in 1960

4: Butt, Audrey. The Nilotes of the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan and Uganda. Ethnographic Survey of Africa, East Central Africa, Part Iv. Pp. 45-67. London: International African Institute, 1952.

HRAF copy

[Only pp. 45-67 of this source have been processed for the FJ23 Shilluk File.]

[This account by a professional anthropologist, provides a convenient summary of materials found elsewhere in the file on the social, political and religious organization of the Shilluk. While the treatment is necessarily summary and brief it covers adequately the information found in the published accounts of Shilluk. -- Analyst]

Field date: no date
Analyst: Betty Potash

Evaluation: Ethnologist-4
Processed in 1960

5: Lienhardt, Godfrey. The Shilluk of the Upper Nile. Daryll Forde, ed., African Worlds, pp. 138-163. London: Oxford University Press for the International African Institute, 1954.

Yale: Nkc58 954J

[This article, which is based on previously published sources, deals with the cosmology, religious beliefs and world view of the Shilluk. While there is little that is new in the data, Lienhardt pulls together materials from various sources to develop a systematic picture of Shilluk cosmology. The nature of divinities and the amoral characteristic of Shilluk religion are discussed and related to the values placed on success. A number of recurrent themes and symbols are examined and tied to significant social and economic aspects of Shilluk life. Finally the basis of the divine nature of kingship is examined and traced to conceptions of universal order and the king's role as a symbol and a maintainer of that order. Much of this interpretation is based on Shilluk myths and traditional history which the author summarizes. A brief cultural summary is also included. --Analyst]

Field date: no date
Analyst: Betty Potash

Evaluation: Ethnologist-4
Processed in 1960

6: Riad, Mohamed. Some Observations of a Fieldtrip among the Shilluk. Wiener Völkerkundliche Mitteilungen, Vol. 3, pp. 70-78. Wien: Völkerkundliche Arbeitsgemeinschaft in der Anthropologischen Gesellschaft in Wien, 1955.

Yale: Nk10 +V85W 3

[This article discusses some anthropometric measurements of the Shilluk taken by an anthropology student. The author found that the measurements varied according to area and between those with commoner and royal status. From these differences and Shilluk traditions the author attempts to reconstruct Shilluk history and migrations. It should be noted that the reconstruction is based on the measurements of only 34 Shilluk. Information is also offered on tribal markings and clothing. -- Analyst]

Field date: 1955
Analyst: Betty Potash

Evaluation: Ethnologist-5
Processed in 1960

7: Tucker, A.N. Children's Games and Songs in the Southern Sudan. Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland, Vol. 63, pp. 165-187. London, 1933.

17 plates.

Yale: Nk10 + R81 v.63

[This source describes children's games played by the Shilluk and other Sudanese tribes. Differences in the manner of playing particular games are noted. The author, an ethnologist, also gives the music and words for songs accompanying these games. The material was gathered from children at a mission school while the author was in the Sudan. --Analyst]

Field date: 1929-1933
Analyst: Betty Potash

Evaluation: Ethnologist-5
Processed in 1960

8: Howell, P. P. Observations on the Shilluk of the Upper Nile, Customary Law: Marriage and the Violation of Rights in Women. Africa, Vol. 23, pp. 94-109. London: International African Institute, 1953.

Yale: Bk2 10 23

[This article deals with marriage among the Shilluk. The manner in which a marriage is arranged and legalized, the circulation and distribution of bridewealth, and rules governing divorce and widowerhood are treated in some detail. In particular the rules governing the return of cattle in cases of divorce and death are described. Material on legitimacy of children, and data on penalties for adultery, pre-marital intercourse, and sexual relations with royal women are included. Some criticisms are offered of other accounts of Shilluk marriage practices and materials from several authors are used. Howell notes that the development of Native Courts has crystallized customs and brought about rigidity in rules that once had greater flexibility. --Analyst]

Field dates: 1937, 1948
Analyst: Betty Potash

Evaluation: Ethnologist-4, 5
Processed in 1960

9: Howell, P. P. Observations on the Shilluk of the Upper Nile: The Laws of Homicide and the Legal Functions of the Reth. Africa, Vol. 22, pp. 97-119. London: Oxford University Press for the International African Institute, 1952.

Yale: Bk2 10 22

[After a brief discussion of Shilluk culture the author considers the judicial functions of the king with particular reference to homicide and blood feuds. He weighs the different accounts of the Shilluk which vary in attributing enforcement powers or powers of arbitration to the Reth. Using these accounts and comparative materials from neighboring tribes he attempts to arrive at some conclusions regarding the degree of effective power vested in the Reth. Materials on the sanctions for different types of crimes and injuries are also given with examples drawn from traditional and more recent cases.--Analyst]

Field date: 1937-1950
Analyst: Betty Potash

Evaluation: Ethnologist-5
Processed in 1960

10: Riad, Mohamed. Of Fung and Shilluk. Wiener Völkerkundliche Mitteilungen, Vol. 3, pp. 138-166. Wien: Völkerkundliche Arbeitsgemeinschaft in der Anthropologischen Gesellschaft in Wien, 1955.

Yale: Nk10 ǂV85W 3

[In this article Riad considers a critique of various theories set forth about the origins and relationship of Fung and Shilluk. Much of Sudanic history and prehistory is given, particularly on the Fung, and this material together with traditions of the different groups and the author's own evaluations of cultural similarities are used to prove a non-Shilluk origin for the Fung. The author concludes that both societies had some relations with each other, but not a common origin. --Analyst]

Field date: 1955
Analyst: Betty Potash

Evaluation: Ethnologist-5
Processed in 1960

11: Oyler, D.S. The Shilluk's Belief in the Evil Eye, The Evil Medicine Man. Sudan Notes and Records, Vol. 2, pp. 122-137. Khartoum, 1919.

Yale: Bk32 3 2

[This article, by a missionary, deals with Shilluk beliefs in sorcery. The author discusses the evil eye and the diseases attributed to this power, the social position and relations of persons believed to possess the evil eye, the manner in which such power is passed on to others, and the treatment of diseases attributed to this power. The jal yat or evil medicine man is discussed in similar terms. In addition some materials are offered on infanticide and on norms of behavior related to Shilluk beliefs in sorcery.--Analyst]

Field date: ca. 1918
Analyst: Betty Potash

Evaluation: Missionary-5
Processed in 1960

12: Oyler, L. (Mrs. D.S.). Examples of Shilluk Folk-lore. Sudan Notes and Records, Vol. 2, pp. 216-223. Khartoum, 1919.

Yale: Bk32 3 2

[This article gives abstracts of nine Shilluk folk-tales dealing with animals. The author was the wife of a missionary who resided among the Shilluk. --Analyst]

Field date: ca. 1918
Analyst: Betty Potash

Evaluation: Missionary-5
Processed in 1960

13: Oyler, D.S. The Shilluk's Belief in the Good Medicine Men. Sudan Notes and Records, Vol. 3, pp. 110-116. Khartoum, 1920.

Yale: Bk32 3 3-4

[This article describes the functions of shamans among the Shilluk. It discusses beliefs regarding their source of power, the physical characteristics of medicine men and their children, and the degree to which shamans are specialized among themselves. In addition to brief descriptions of therapeutic practices other magical functions of the shamans are described. --Analyst]

Field date: ca. 1918
Analyst: Betty Potash

Evaluation: Missionary-5
Processed in 1960

14: Oyler, D.S. The Shilluk Peace Ceremony. Sudan Notes and Records, Vol. 3, pp. 296-299. Khartoum, 1920.

Yale: Bk32 3 3-4

[The author describes the settlement of a feud which he witnessed while serving as a missionary among the Shilluk. He discusses the role of the king, district chief, and neighboring chieftains in bringing about peace as well as the ceremonies of peace making. There are indications throughout the account that the king and chiefs serve primarily as mediators without enforcement powers since feuding factions can refuse to settle the dispute. --Analyst]

Field date: ca. 1918
Analyst: Betty Potash

Evaluation: Missionary-5
Processed in 1960

15: Oyler, D.S. Shilluk Notes. Sudan Notes and Records, Vol. 9, pp. 57-68. Khartoum, 1926.

Yale: Bk32 3 9-10

[This article, written by a missionary, describes some Shilluk customs and beliefs. It deals with their attitudes toward storms and lightning and the behavior and rituals connected with these natural phenomena. Initiation of young boys and girls and the privileges connected with adolescence are also discussed. Begging customs including stereotyped begging expeditions as well as assistance given to the needy are described. --Analyst]

Field dates: ca 1918
Analyst: Betty Potash

Evaluation: Missionary-5
Processed in 1960

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16: Cann, G. P. A Day in the Life of an Idle Shilluk. Sudan Notes and Records, Vol. 12, pp. 251-53. Khartoum, 1929.

Yale: Bk32 3 11-12

[This article describes some of the economic activities and domestic duties engaged in by Shilluk of different ages and sexes. While it is quite brief and does not describe the duties in any detail some notion of the daily routine and ordering of activities is given. The author is an army captain who was stationed in the Sudan.--Analyst]

Field date: ca. 1928
Analyst: Betty Potash

Evaluation: Government Official-5
Processed in 1960

17: Pumphrey, M.E.C. The Shilluk Tribe. Sudan Notes and Records, Vol. 24, pp. 1-45. Khartoum, 1941.

5 appendices; 1 plate

Yale: Bk32 3 23-24

[This article offers a general account of Shilluk culture. The author discusses their history, settlement organization, clans, class divisions, marriage practices and property system. He notes the changes in the political system which may be attributed to foreign influence and control. Lists of kinship terms, a genealogy of Shilluk kins, and a list of the different settlements which includes their populations and information on their organization into larger divisions are given for two different time periods. The author was a government official.--Analyst]

Field date: 1934-1938
Analyst: Betty Potash

Evaluation: Government Official-5
Processed in 1960

18: Howell, P. P. The Shilluk Settlement. Sudan Notes and Records, Vol. 24, pp. 47-66. Khartoum, 1941.

2 maps; 4 plates; 4 charts.

Yale: Bk32 3 23-24

[This source offers an excellent account of Shilluk settlement organization. The author discusses the relationship of lineages to community organization, the manner in which hamlets within a settlement develop and die out, and the role of the founding lineage in the community. The age-grade organization which is seldom mentioned in other sources is described and its function as a means of uniting different kinship groups for defense is examined. The author is an ethnologist. --Analyst]

Field date: 1937
Analyst: Betty Potash

Evaluation: Ethnologist-5
Processed in 1960

19: Howell, P. P. and W. P. G. Thomson. The Death of a Reth of the Shilluk and the Installation of His Successor. Sudan Notes and Records, Vol. 27, pp. 4-85. Khartoum, 1946.

Bibliography; appendices; 4 maps; 9 plates; 3 figures

Yale: Bk32 3 27-28

[The authors present a description of the funeral and installation ceremonies of the Reth which does not differ significantly from materials available in other published accounts. Somewhat greater detail is given, e.g., the sib affiliations of individuals chosen to select a new reth are listed, full descriptions of sacred objects and effigies are included, etc. The authors point out that the full installation ceremony had not taken place for a number of years due to foreign control and unsettled conditions. The authors suggest that many elements may have been forgotten or undergone change. --Analyst]

Field date: 1943-1944
Analyst: Betty Potash

Evaluation: Government Official, Ethnologist-5
Processed in 1960

20: Thomson, W. P. G. Further Notes on the Death of a Reth of the Shilluk (1945). Sudan Notes and Records, Vol. 29, pp. 151-160. Khartoum, 1948.

Yale: Bk32 3 29-30

[This article supplements an earlier account by the author and Howell on the death of the Reth (Source number 19 this file). It provides little additional information on either the funeral or installation of the reth and agrees substantially with most other accounts. The author notes one or two minor variations in the 1944 and 1946 installation ceremonies, corrects a statement made in the earlier article about the material composition of one of the effigies, and adds a few details on the ceremonial "wife" of the reth after the installation. -- Analyst]

Field date: 1945-46
Analyst: Betty Potash

Evaluation: Government Official-5
Processed in 1960

21: Mutwakil, Hasan. Types of Dura Used by Shilluk and Dinka. Sudan Notes and Records, Vol. 28, pp. 184-186. Khartoum, 1947.

Yale: Bk32 3 27-28

[This article lists the varieties of dura grown by the Shilluk and Dinka along with native terms for each. The seasons in which various types are planted are also given. --Analyst]

Field date: 1946
Analyst: Betty Potash

Evaluation: Unknown-5
Processed in 1960

22: Howell, P. P. The Death and Burial of reth Dak wad Fadiet of the Shilluk. Sudan Notes and Records, Vol. 33, pp. 156-164. Khartoum, 1952.

Yale: Bk32 3 33-34

[This article describes a burial of a Shilluk reth witnessed by the author. Details are given on the ceremonies and their order, the participants and ceremonial paraphernalia. The author, an ethnologist, notes some small differences of detail from other published descriptions of burial rites which he believes are due to flexibility in the rituals themselves.--Analyst]

Field date: 1951
Analyst: Betty Potash

Evaluation: Ethnologist-5
Processed in 1960

23: Paul, A. The Mar of the Shilluk. Sudan Notes and Records, Vol. 33, pp. 165-166. Khartoum, 1952.

Yale: Bk32 3 33-34

[This article recounts a Shilluk tradition about a sacred object which brought luck to the Shilluk. The author believes this was an emerald derived from the Red Sea. The argument is based on linguistic similarities in the name of the object. The author was a deputy governor of Kassala Province.--Analyst]

Field date: ca. 1951
Analyst: Betty Potash

Evaluation: Government Official-5
Processed in 1960

24: Howell, P. P. The Election and Installation of Reth Kur Wad Fafiti of the Shilluk. Sudan Notes and Records, Vol. 34, pp. 189-203. Khartoum, 1953.

4 plates; 2 maps; appendix.

Yale: Bk32 3 33-34

[This article describes the manner in which a Shilluk king is elected and the ceremony of installation witnessed by the author. Beliefs about the sacred character of the king are described and related to ritual elements in the ceremony. Variations in rites are discussed and related either to fears of opposition and rebellion on the part of the king who may wish to shorten the time period and/or to flexibility in the order of the ceremonies themselves. In addition to the ceremony witnessed by the author, observations of several Europeans are included relating to installation ceremonies not witnessed by Howell. --Analyst]

Field date: 1951-1952
Analyst: Betty Potash

Evaluation: Ethnologist-5
Processed in 1960

25: Anonymous. The Installation of a New Shilluk King. Sudan Notes and Records, Vol. 37, pp. 99-101. Khartoum, 1956.

Yale: Bk32 3 37-38

[This account by a Shilluk secondary school pupil describes the election and installation ceremonies of a king. Dr. P. P. Howell, an expert on the Shilluk, recommended that this account be published. --Analyst]

Field date: no date
Analyst: Betty Potash

Evaluation: Indigene-5
Processed in 1960

26: Pumphrey, M.E.C. Shilluk "Royal" Language Conventions. Sudan Notes and Records, Vol. 20, pp. 319-321. Khartoum, 1937.

Yale: Bk32 3 19-20

[This article describes the different manner in which Royalty and Commoners are addressed and recounts differences in style used in addressing the king and European district commissioners. --Analyst]

Field date: 1934-1937
Analyst: Betty Potash

Evaluation: Government Official-5
Processed in 1960

27: Munro, P. Installation of the Ret of the Chol (King of the Shilluks). Sudan Notes and Records, Vol. 1, pp. 145-152. Khartoum, 1918.

Yale: Bk32 3 1.

[This account describes an installation ceremony of a Shilluk king witnessed by the author. He notes some small discrepancies of detail in the ceremony observed by him and in that recorded by Seligman which he attributes to a certain amount of flexibility and variation in the rites. On the whole the account does not add any further information to that already recorded in other sources in the files. --Analyst]

Field date: 1918
Analyst: Betty Potash

Evaluation: Unknown-5
Processed in 1960

28: Oyler, D.S. Nikawng's Place in the Shilluk Religion. Sudan Notes and Records, Vol. 1, pp. 283-292. Khartoum, 1918.

Yale: Bk32 3 1

[This article deals with the religious and medical beliefs and practices of the Shilluk. Various aspects of the religion are discussed, including ancestor worship, concepts of the relations of various deities and deified culture heroes to each other, prayers, sacrifices, shrines, etc. There is considerable detail given on shamanism and spirit possession and the manner in which communication is established with the spirits of dead kings and Nikawng. The author, a missionary, spent several years among the Shilluk.--Analyst]

Field date: ca. 1918
Analyst: Betty Potash

Evaluation: Missionary-5
Processed in 1960

29: Dempsey, James. Mission On The Nile. London: Burns & Oates, 1955.

Pp. xxii, 247; 17 plates; 5 maps.

Yale Divinity School: MX51 D399m

[Only pp. xxii, 1-149; 11 plates; 3 maps have been processed for the file.]

[This source by a Roman Catholic priest is an excellent descriptive account of village life, daily routine and mission activity among the Shilluk. There are detailed accounts of the history and background of the area, problems and growth of the mission, ceremonies associated with installation of a new king, labor and leisure activity, mission education, government and judicial authority, clothing and adornment. The source also contains a number of life histories, personal experiences and specific incidents which took place during the author's 14 years in the field. --Analyst]

Field date: 1940-1954
Analyst: Millicent Kim

Evaluation: Missionary-5
Processed in 1963